(b) There is no degradation of marine resources.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Namrup

1270. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizers Promotion Agricultural Research Division of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited has submitted a proposal for establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Namrup, Assam; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras, including one at Namrup, Assam will depend on availability of additional resources.

Demand of Urea And D.A.P.

† 127I. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for urea and D.A.P. in Uttar Pradesh has greatly increased during 1999-2000 in comparison to 1997-1998 and whether the demand for D.A.P. has increased manifold in 1999-2000 in comparison to 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to meet this demand; whether any assessment has been made with regard to next year's demand; if so, the details of meeting the demand of Urea and D.A.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The consumption of Urea in Uttar Pradesh increased to an estimated 50.62 lakh metric tonnes in 1999-2000 from 46.87 lakh metric tonnes in 1997-1998, representing an increase of 8.0 per cent. The consumption of D.A.P. in the State during 1997-98,1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 8.75, 8.90 and 11.28 lakh metric tonnes, respectively. In 1998-99, the consumption increased by 1.71 per cent and in 1999-2000 by 26.74 per cent over the previous year.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b)The requirement for Urea and D.A.P. in Uttar Pradesh during Kharif 2000 *season* has been assessed at 24.10 and 4.50 lakh metric tonnes, respectively. 24.89 lakh metric tonnes of Urea has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh to meet the Kharif season demand. D.A.R is a decontrolled fertilizer for which no State-wise allocations are made by the Government. Its availability depends on the market, forces of demand and supply.

Loan released by National Horticulture Board

† 1272. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Horticulture Board has released loan and financial assistance to a private limited company during the last few years, without obtaining bank guarantee, connivance with the officers of :he Board causing a loss of Rs. 90.60 lakh;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking or considering to take any action against them; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO), (a) to (c) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) set up for promoting integrated development of horticulture in the country has been taking up programmes on various aspects from production to post harvest management of horticulture produce. The Board has taken up various schemes during the 8th Plan for overall development of horticulture by providing loan/soft loan/subsidy to co-operative societies/farmers associations/NGOs/corporate and private sector/ State Agro industry Corporations etc. For seeking loan/soft loan, one mode of security is bank guarantee besides other modes of security. Two cases of fake/misplaced bank guarantee have come to the notice. In one case, the Board has provided loan of Rs. 9,37,500/- and subsidy of Rs. 3,12,500/- for procurement and installation of 50 juice vending machines under its Scheme, namely, 'Alternate Structure for Marketing of Fruit Juice/Fruit based Beverages Scheme. In the other cases, the Board had provided soft loan of Rs. 49.68 lakh for setting up post harvest infrastructure facilities like cold storage, pre-cooling unit, refrigerated van and retail outlets with subsidy of Rs. 5.00 lakh for the procurement of plastic crates under the Scheme, namely, 'Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops'.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.